

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3412

INFO CINCEUR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0384

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI AO

SUBJECT: SHIP VISIT: USS BROWNSON AND USS NEW

REF: LISBON 1950; USS BROWNSON DTG 241900Z MAR 75

1. I TALKED WITH THE PORTUGUESE NAVAL COMMANDER FOR ANGOLA, REAR ADMIRAL CARDOSO ON APRIL 4. HE SAW NO PROBLEM WITH THE PROPOSED SHIP VISIT. HE SUGGESTED THREE CONDITIONS BE OBSERVED:

A. NO PUBLICITY

B. SHORE LEAVE ONLY AFTER CONFERRING WITH THE MOCAMEDES PORT CAPTAIN, WHO IS A PORTUGUESE NAVAL OFFICER.

C. CIVILIAN CLOTHES ON SHORE.

HE IS NOT DIRECTING THAT WE FOLLOW THE FOREGOING PROCEDURES. BUT BELIEVES IT WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF ALL.

2. I TOLD CARDOSO I WAS BRINGING THE MATTER TO HIS ATTENTION BECAUSE OF THE DELAY THAT ALWAYS OCCUR IN PROCESSING THE PAPERS AND I WANTED TIME TO IRON OUT ANY HITCHES. CARDOSO GAVE THE DATA ON THE SHIPS TO HIS EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND ASKED HIM TO COORDINATE
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WITH LISBON.

3. I TURNED NEXT TO QUESTION OF INFORMING THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. CARDOSO IS A PLEASANT BUT CRUSTY OFFICER AND HE DISMISSED THE NOTION OUT OF HAND. THE PORTUGUESE, HE SAID, HAVE THE ENTIRE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. WHEN HE GETS THE CLEARANCE HE WILL TELL THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CAN TELL THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES, HE ADDED, WILL HE TALK WITH THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. I REPLIED THAT ALTHOUGH THAT PROCEDURE WOULD BE TECHNICALLY CORRECT IT COULD LEAD TO SOME HARD FEELINGS. THE PORTUGUESE MAY HAVE DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BUT OUR SHIPS WILL BE COMING TO A COUNTRY THAT WILL SOON BELONG TO THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND WE DO NOT WANT TO CREATE SUCH HARD FEELINGS THAT WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO COME BACK. CARDOSO UNDERSTOOD THE POINT AND SAID HE WOULD TALK WITH THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO ASK THAT HE INFORMALLY SOUND OUT THE MOVEMENTS.

4. CARDOSO'S ATTITUDE OF DAMN THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS HAS ITS ADVANTAGES; WE COULD GET IN AND OUT BEFORE THE MOVEMENTS KNEW WE WERE HERE. THEY MIGHT NOT EVEN RAISE ANY OBJECTION TO NOT BEING INFORMED. STILL, I BELIEVE THE PREFERRED ROUTE IS TO CONSULT THEM. IF WE GET A STRONG NEGATIVE FROM ONE OF THE MOVEMENTS WE WILL HAVE TO THEN DECIDE WHETHER TO COME IN OR NOT. THE MPLA IS THE ONLY MOVEMENT THAT MIGHT BE STRONGLY OPPOSED AND WE MAY DECIDE TO GO AGAINST THEIR WISHES AS LONG AS THE PORTUGUESE TELL US TO COME AHEAD. KILLORAN

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